Hike in Indian Airlines fares

773. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines have hiked the fare structure by about 20% with effect from October 1, 1995;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how it has or is likely to affect the fare structure of other Airlines operating in India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has increased its domestic rupee fare by an average of 20% with effect from 1st October, 1995 to offset the impact of increase in cost of inputs, since last fare revision.

(c) Private operators are free to charge fares on commercial considerations.

Dulhasti Power Project

774. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work on the implementation of Dulhasti Power Rroject is at a stand still;

(b) what was the original target date for completion of this project and when it is likely to be completed now;

(c) what is the cost escalation involved and at what rate power is likely to be made available to the consumer after the completion of the project; and

(d) what concrete measures are being taken to keep the cost to the minimum and to secure speedy implementation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) Work on the Dulhasti Hydroelectric Project has been resumed in 1995 with the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC) taking up some of the civil works on departmental basis pending engagement of a new contractor for completion of the balance civil works. The supply of electro-mechanical and hydro-mechanical equipment has also been resumed by the French Consortium which had been initially entrusted with the execution of the project on turn-key basis.

(b) As per the original contract between NHPC and the French Consortium, the Dulhasti Project was to be completed by July 1994. The revised completion schedule is July 1998.

(c) The Project was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 1262.97 crores at Oct., 1988 price level for execution through the French Consortium. The revised cost of the project at September, 1995 price level has been provisionally estimated by NHPC at Rs. 2505.9 crores. The likely cost of supply of power to the beneficiary States at the provisionally estimated revised project cost works out to Rs. 3.46 per unit after allowing for 12% free power to J & K.

(d) Cost escalation is to be kept to the minimum by strict monitoring of the project implementation and periodical reviews of progress at the level of NHPC as well as the Government. Security arrangements in and around the project area are also being strengthened with a view to ensuring speedy implementation of the project. Some of the critical works of the project have been taken up by